

training but also have considered a career if "things work out." They have come to serve their country but only in a very indirect way. They have not joined for the veterans Benefits because those have been truncated to the point where they are useless. No matter what they do, there is no way it will pay for college and the old VA home loan is not competitive either. There are no real veteran's benefits anymore. . . . It is that simple, and our senior leadership has their head in the sand if they think otherwise. As they progress through their initial enlistments, that are four years or more now, many conclude that they will not be competitive enough to make it a 20 year career or don't want to endure the sacrifices required. At that point they decide that it is time to get on with the rest of their lives and the result is the high first term attrition we currently have to deal with. The thought of a less than honorable discharge holds no fear whatsoever for most. It is a paper tiger. Twenty years ago an individual could serve two years and walk away with a very attractive amount of Veterans benefits that could not be matched by any other sector or business in the country. We have even seen those who serve long enough lose benefits as we stamped from weaker program to weaker program. This must be reversed. We need a viable and competitive GI Bill that is grandfathered when you enter the service, is predicated on an honorable discharge and has increasing benefits for longer service so we can fill the mid grade ranks with quality people. We must do this to stop the hemorrhage of first term attrition and to reestablish good faith and fairness. It will allow us to reenlist a few more and enlist a few less.

The modern service member is well read and informed. He knows more about strategy, diplomacy and current events than Captains knew when I first joined. He reads national newspapers and professional journals and is tuned into CNN. Gone are the days of the PFC who sat in Butzbach in the Fulda Gap or Camp Schwab on Okinawa and scanned the Stars and Stripes sports page and listened to AFN. Yet our senior leadership continue to treat him like a moron from the hinterland who wouldn't understand what goes on. He is in the service because he wants to be and not because he can't get a job in the steel mill. Three hots and a cot are not what he is here for. The Grunts and other combat arms guys aren't here for the "training and skills" either. He is remarkably well disciplined in that he does what he is told to do even though he knows it is stupid. He is very stoic, but not blind. Yet I see senior leaders all of the time who pile more on. One should remind them that their first platoon in 1968 would have told them to stick it where the sun doesn't shine. These new Warriors only think it. . . . He is well aware of the moral cowardice of his seniors and their habit of taking the easy way out that results in more pain and work for their subordinates. This must be reversed. The senior leadership must have the moral courage to stop the misuse and abuse of the current force. The force is too small, stretched too thin and too poorly funded. These deficiencies are made up on the backs of the Marines, sailors, airmen and soldiers. The troops are the best we've ever had and that is no reason to drive them into the dirt. Our equipment and infrastructure is shot. There is no other way to put it. We must reinvest immediately and not just on the big-ticket items like the F-22. That is the equivalent of buying a new sofa when the roof leaks and the termites are wrecking the structure.

Finally let me spend a minute talking about camaraderie and leadership. I stayed a Marine because I had great leaders early on. They were men of great character without preaching, men of courage without ragging, men of humor without rancor. They were men who believed in me and I in them. They encouraged me without being condescending. We were part of a team and they cared little for promotions, political correctness or who your father was. They were well educated renaissance men who were equally at home in the White House or visiting a sick Marine's child in a trailer park. They could talk to a barmaid or a baroness with equal ease and make each feel like a lady. They didn't much tolerate excuses or liars or those with too much ambition for promotion. Someone once told me that Priests do the Lord's work and don't plan to be the Pope. They were in touch with their Marines and supportive of their seniors. They voiced their opinions freely and without retribution from above. They probably drank too much and had an eye for beautiful women as long as they weren't someone's wife or a subordinate. You could trust them with your life, your wife or your wallet. Some of these great leaders were not my superiors—some were my Marines. We need more like them at the senior levels of Government and military leadership today. It is indeed sad when senior defense officials and Generals say things on TV they themselves don't believe and every service member knows they are lying. It is sad how out of touch with our society some of our Generals are.

Ask some general you know these ten questions:

1. How much does a PFC. make per month?
2. How big is the gas tank on a Hummvee?
3. Who is your Congressman and who are your two Senators?
4. Name one band that your men listen to.
5. Name one book on the NY Times best seller list.
6. Who won the last superbowl?
7. What is the best selling car in America?
8. What is the WWF?
9. When did you last trust your subordinates enough to take ten days leave?
10. What is the leave balance of your most immediate subordinate?

We all know they won't get two right and therein lies the problem. We are in the midst of monumental leadership failure at the senior levels. Just recently Gen. Shelton (CJCS) testified that he didn't know we had a readiness problem or pay problems. . . . Can you imagine that level of isolation? We must fix our own leadership problems soon.

Quality of life is paid lip service and everyone below the rank of Col. knows it. We need tough, realistic and challenging training. But we don't need low pay, no medical benefits and ghetto housing. There is only so much our morality should allow us to ask of families. Isn't it bad enough that we ask the service members to sacrifice their lives without asking their families to sacrifice their education and well being too? We put our troops on guilt trips when we tell them about how many died for this country and no hot water in housing is surely a small sacrifice to make. "Men have died and you have the guts to complain about lack of medical care for your kids?" The nation has been in an economic boom for dam near twenty years now, yet we expect folks in the military to live like lower middle class folks lived in the mid fifties. In 1974 a 2nd Lt. could buy a Corvette for less than his annual salary. Today, you can't buy a Corvette on a Major's annual salary. I can give you 100

other examples . . . An NROTC midshipman on scholarship got \$100 a month in 1975. He or she still gets \$100 in 1999. No raise in 25 years? The QOL life piece must be fixed. The Force sees this as a truth teller and the truth is not good.

I stayed a Marine despite the erosion of benefits, the sacrifices of my wife and children, the betrayal of our junior troops and the declining quality of life because of great leaders, and the threat to our way of life by a truly evil empire that no longer exists. I want men to stay in the future.

We must reverse these trends. There will be a new "evil empire" eventually. Sacrifices will need to be made and perhaps many things cannot change but first and foremost we must fix our leadership problems. The rest will take care of itself. If we can only fix the leadership problem. . . . Then, I still can't promise you "fun" but I can promise you the reward and satisfaction of being able to look in the mirror for the rest of your life and being able to say: "I gave more to America than I ever took from America. . . . and I am proud of it."

Semper Fi and God Bless you.

NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2000

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President. I rise today to speak about S. 2557, the National Energy Security Act of 2000.

First of all, I want to thank the Republican leader, Senator LOTT, who pulled together a task force to address the serious problem of the lack of a national energy policy, and also Senator MURKOWSKI, Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

From my viewpoint on the Task Force, I was representing a State that appeared to be the proverbial canary in the coal mine as Maine was one of the early Northeast states not only to bear the brunt of low oil inventories during this past winter that was 20 degrees below normal in January, but a state that also experienced some of the highest prices in the country for home heating oil, kerosene and propane. Prices doubled and remained high throughout the winter months only then to be followed this spring by the highest prices in over two decades at the gas pump. And, this week, prices at the pump are once again on their way up, jumping more than 12 cents overnight.

The entire episode has pointed out just how vulnerable—and unprepared—the Federal Government is when it comes to a workable energy policy. As we found out, there was no short term policy to follow. The Administration, as Secretary Richardson stated at an oil crisis summit in Bangor last February, was caught napping. So, the goal of the task force was to come up with legislation that would decrease the country's dependency on foreign oil to 50 percent by the year 2010 through the enhancement of the use of renewable energy resources and includes the extension of tax credits for the production of energy from biomass, including

wood waste; increases eligibility to the federal Weatherization Program, an outreach program to encourage consumers to take actions to avoid seasonal price increases through a summer fill and fuel budgeting program; and provides tax credits for residential use of solar power.

The bill enhances domestic energy production oil by offering tax relief for oil and gas produced from small marginal wells—wells that produce less than 15 barrels a day—that have already been drilled but have been capped when oil prices hit rock bottom over the past few years. Bringing these marginal wells back into domestic production also has the benefit of producing more U.S. jobs.

I am particularly pleased that the bill authorizes the Secretary of Energy to establish a Northeast Heating Oil Reserve to be used when home heating oil inventories fall dangerously low and prices escalate. The Reserve would store two million barrels of refined home heating oil within a day's delivery to Northeast states if supplies run dangerously low because of a sudden demand due to cold winter weather.

Mr. President, I would have liked to have been a cosponsor of S. 2557, because we need a comprehensive policy and the National Energy Security Act was an effort to start down that road. I cannot, however, because the bill also calls for the opening up of the Arctic Coastal Plain, which would allow for oil and gas exploration and drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I continue to believe that ANWR should remain protected and there are a number of other steps that can be taken to increase or conserve our domestic supply.

Now that this legislation has been introduced, potential solutions to our Nation's energy policy—or lack of it—can at least be considered and debated.

TRIBUTE TO MONTANA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Montana's Law Enforcement officers who have fallen in the line of duty. These individuals have given their lives protecting the innocent and I can think of no more noble endeavor.

We have recently considered a resolution that will make May 15th a national memorial day for peace officers. I think it is high time that the nation joins Montana in setting aside time to honor our law enforcement officers. For the past twelve years Montana has celebrated the dedication of its law enforcement officers on this day. I wish to commend Terry Tyler and the other members of the Professional Justice Community of Montana whose hard work and sacrifice to preserve and recognize the officers who have died in the line of duty are the best examples of

the "Montana Spirit" that I know so well. I was pleased to support that resolution as I am pleased to commend and commemorate the Montana Law Enforcement Museum for its continuing commitment to honoring our fallen law enforcement officers who placed public safety before their own.

Montana law enforcement traditions can be traced back to April 1863 when Henry Plummer became the state's first elected sheriff. Since that time Montana's law enforcement officers have been charged with the protection and defense of the public and our laws. In Montana, our citizens enjoy a life style not marred by daily occurrences of gun violence and crime. Our children do not feel threatened in our schools and it is commonplace to leave your door unlocked. I can think of no greater testament to the hard work and dedication of our law enforcement officers and the people of Montana who support their efforts.

It is only right that we take a day to remember those who have died so that others may live in a safe and secure environment. It is an honor and privilege to stand and recognize the efforts of these people and those who will not let their efforts go unnoticed. So, I wish to close with gratitude for those individuals who have dedicated their labors to a higher cause and who continually put their lives on the line to protect me and my family. On behalf of the state of Montana and the Nation, thank you.

LAW ENFORCEMENT SURVIVORS' EDUCATION BENEFITS

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in tribute to all the men and women in law enforcement in this country. This week, May 14–20, is National Police Week, set aside to honor the men and women behind the badge. In 1962, Congress passed and President Kennedy signed a joint resolution proclaiming May 15 of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week of each year during which such May 15 occurs as Police Week, "in recognition of the service given by the men and women who, night and day, stand guard in our midst to protect us through enforcement of our laws," from Public Law 87–726.

Sadly, between 140 and 160 law enforcement officers die in the line of duty each year. On average, 21,433 officers are injured in the line of duty each year.

In honor of the thousands of officers who have given their lives to protect the people of this Nation, I am pleased to announce an important step that the Senate took yesterday in furtherance of a much needed change in the current federal law. Last September I introduced S. 1638, a bill to expand the educational opportunities under the Deegan program, named after slain

Federal officer Bill Deegan, for the families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. This bill honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our communities by making available Federal funds to those officers' spouses and dependent children in order to pursue secondary education.

Yesterday, on National Peace Officers Memorial Day, the Senate unanimously passed S. 1638. I want to thank the Senate for taking this action, and urge the House to do the same.

I want to thank the co-sponsors of this bill—Senators COLLINS, GRAMS, ROBB, TIM HUTCHINSON, DODD, ABRAHAM, SPECTER, BRYAN, GREGG, HELMS, and BIDEN. I am very pleased by the bipartisan support for the bill, and for the endorsements of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association and other law enforcement organizations.

This bill extends retroactively the benefits created under the 1992 law to the surviving spouses and dependent children of law enforcement officials who were killed between 1978 and the current start dates of the program.

It is important to extend these benefits back to the year 1978 because under the existing program, a large number of dependent children currently between the ages 8 and 21, those born between 1978 and 1992, are excluded from participating in the program merely because their parent was killed before 1992. Pushing back the date allows these dependent children, currently facing the prospect of paying for secondary education in the often financially strained environment of a single-parent family, also to benefit from this program.

This goal is consistent with the intent of the original law: an effort to show our gratitude to the maximum number of dependent children of slain law enforcement officers.

This provision affects the families of an estimated 4,100 officers, including more than 60 in Missouri. The bill makes these spouses and dependent children eligible for up to \$5820 a year for 4 years if they enroll in full-time study at an approved secondary school. In short, it helps the loved ones of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defending the rest of us by allowing them to pursue their dreams to move forward with their lives and continue their education.

On this occasion, I also want to thank a very important organization headquartered in Camdenton, MO—the Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. [COPS]. COPS was organized in 1984 with 110 members. Today COPS' membership is over 10,000 families. Concerns of Police Survivors, provides resources to assist in the rebuilding of the lives of surviving families of slain law enforcement officers.